

BATTEN THE BREEZE

Moraine Sailing Club Newsletter

July/August 2002



First Half of Racing Season Ends with Lots of Enthusiasm but Little Wind

The Spring Racing Series ended June 29th with another very light wind day. Except for a few cool and rainy days in May and one stormy day in mid June, we have had pretty light winds for most races. It seems like the Summer Doldrums came early this year. Racers were very glad to get off the lake by lunch since the Social chairs Rich & Dawn Marcus had arranged for a great Hot 'N Cool Social. We had great Chili and Frostys from Wendy's plus homemade cornbread, complements of Joe Shields.

In spite of the light winds we have a few terrific sailboat racers who can move their boats fast in almost any conditions. The Flying Scot winners were Paul Rowan and his crew, Bob Ronczka who consistently led the pack. They had five 1st places and four 2nd places. Dan Goldberg with crew Joni Reis and Cindi Phillips were a close second in spite of a hectic schedule which took them out of town to several major Flying Scot Regattas. Rounding out the top Scot finishers were (3) Joe Shields, (4) Bob Zavos, and (5) Charlie Cullen. Bob admits to benefiting greatly by sailing on some low participation days. A total of 18 different Flying Scots sailed in at least one race.

In the open class (Portsmouth Handicap) we had eight different boats that raced at least one day during the session but only two met the minimum race number (50%) qualifications. Jim Hastings with crew Jack Marshall was first and Gerry Brandt took second in his new Sunfish. Complete racing details appear on page 5.

Versatile Flying Scots

Charlie Cullen uses his Scot to tow the safety boat when its motor died on the last racing day of the Spring Session. In previous weeks Flying Scots have also been used as committee boats when the Pontoon Boat was unavailable.

Youth Sailing Camp/Overnight Camping

As of publication date we still had a few openings left in the Youth Summer Camp. Please contact Joe Shields at 412-367-3697 or jshields@post-gazette.com

We have also reserved the Five Points group campsite on the north shore of Lake Arthur during Camp week. All MSC members are invited to come up to the lake, do some sailing, and join us at the campsite for an evening or two (or all week). Camping starts at 3 p.m. Monday, July 22 to Friday, July 26 at 3 p.m. The cost is only \$15 per night, \$50 for the four nights PER FAMILY. You can have more than one tent for this price. If you are interested in camping, please contact Donna Hetrick at 412-488-6835 or via email: dan@fireborn.com

FLYING SCOT SUMMER PICNIC



Saturday July 20, after the last race at the Covered Pavilion at Watts Bay



All Moraine Sailing Club Members are invited for a late afternoon picnic sponsored by Flying Scot fleet 80. Bring a friend, bring a salad, bring a desert, or a good story.

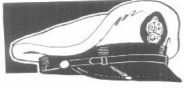
MAIN COURSE AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
Celia and Dean Marlin RSVP 412-828-8598 or bigfish@stargate.net

2002 SAILING EVENTS

July 20	Flying Scot Picnic
July 22-26	Youth Camp - Lake Arthur
July 27&28	Keelboat Certification Class
August 17	Flying Scot Picnic
August 24 &25	The Regatta at Lake Arthur
Sep. 21 & 22	Flying Scot Regatta
Sep. 28	End 'O Season Regatta
Nov 10	Fall Banquet

REMINDER TO PAY YOUR DUES

If you haven't paid your 2002 MSC dues please do so immediately so we can continue your Batten the Breeze subscription and add you to the annual membership directory. See application on page 8



Commodore's Corner

Sailing on windy days can be an exhilarating, if not exhausting experience. There is no shame in staying on shore or crewing for a more experienced skipper in a bigger boat on windy days. I have done so many times, as did several sailors on June 15th. Our race day started with "good" wind about 10-15 mph, which built to whitecap producing winds exceeding 20. Day Steward Dan Goldberg wisely postponed the start of the first race until the rain stopped and the winds abated. Unfortunately, during this period, one of our members capsized. As his boat turned turtle, the centerboard fell into the well, eliminating the possibility of self-rescue by the single-handed skipper.

No one was hurt in this capsize but we can draw some lessons from the experience. The first element of safety is judgment; the Day Steward exercised good judgment in postponing. The second element is preparation. Don your life jacket before leaving the dock. Since the most common cause of an accidental capsize is a jammed or cleated sheet, tangle-proof your boat and clear all the running rigging before leaving the dock. Your most important safety factor is to wear an appropriate PFD. Apart from CG approval, the most important aspects of life jacket selection are fit and freedom of movement. Fit is particularly important for kids. Sailing World ran a recent article on user tests of life jackets for small boat sailors. I'll leave my issue in the shed for everyone to read.

A boat has been defined as "a hole in the water into which you pour money". Your club's boats are no exception. Sean Marshall has been working to keep our venerable Sunfish and sturdy Scots in shape. Thanks to all who showed up at the maintenance day Sunday July 14. A good turnout helped to get our Sunfish fleet ready for the youth camp and the Scots repaired for CSP activities. Thanks, John Jombock for rebuilding some of the Sunfish rudders; they are works of art with MSC stenciled beneath the varnish.

Bernie Wiwel has been busy trying to keep our motors operational. Our latest problem was the unexplained stalling of the committee boat motor after it had run for some time. West Penn Marine was able to replicate the problem and hopefully has fixed it. Even though our small motors are old, we do not put large numbers of hours on them. It appears prudent to maintain them rather than buy new ones (although electric start would be a very nice feature for those of us who can no longer yank vigorously on a rope). Even our newer motor, the 30 hp crash boat motor with electric start confounded us until it quit completely while Barb Keiser was trying to reset marks on the last race of the spring series. Jon Hart, the day steward, eventually traced the problem to a broken fitting on the fuel tank.

Last fall, the carpet on the Committee Boat came apart in the most heavily used area near the bow. The deck beneath the carpet appeared to be sound so the decision was made to replace the carpet over the two-week period from June 30 until July 13, the next scheduled race day. Doug Burk hauled the boat for us on the afternoon of the Hot 'n Cool and the next day, the Destruction crew (John, Bernie, Sean and me) went to work and stripped the superstructure, seats, and carpet from the deck. We found the deck to be sound but in need of some surface repair. The steering consol

and bench seats were rotten so we ordered replacements. The Reconstruction crew was lead by Carl Suppo. After scraping and sweeping the deck Carl used the West Epoxy system to seal and fill the damaged areas. Carpet laying and reassembly went smoothly until we realized that the old steering mechanism wouldn't fit in the new console since the mounting arrangement for steering gear has changed in the last 20 years! Dan Vito took the responsibility of ordering and installing new gear. Steering is now smooth over a wide range of motor angles. The new carpet and benches really improve the appearance and comfort of the Committee boat. Unfortunately as of this writing (July 16) the committee boat is still not functional. After we re-launched the motor started, ran for a while, then quit and couldn't be re-started. Bernie removed the motor again for a trip to the motor clinic. Hopefully by the time you read this it will be fixed and re-installed.

What is the lesson behind these experiences? Old boats, like old houses, require maintenance. Last year, John Bridges rebuilt the old crash boat. This year it is the turn for the committee boat. We have three motorboats, which are available for club activities such as Youth Sailing Camp in addition to the race schedule.

Victoria Wilk has agreed to take on the position of "Shed Mistress". She asked for a job description which I suggested be: "Key contact for keeping our shed orderly and suited to the needs of MSC activities". She set about familiarizing herself with the shed and its contents. She sorted the life jackets and discarded those which are torn or illegal. We need to buy some more jackets for our programs, particularly the wearable life vests. Vic has several ideas, which the shed committee will recommend to the board for implementation. Thanks for your help, Vic.

Kudos for Bette McDevitt's article in the July 14 Post Gazette. My landline and e-mail have been ringing off the hook since Sunday. We are sure to get members from the well-written and thoroughly researched article that mentions many of our club members. In another development, the Post Gazette Charities Fund has awarded \$200 to the Moraine Trails Council recognizing the work Joe Shields did for the Scouts in 2001. Way to go, Joe; it's nice to have your employer recognize in a small way, the immense amount work you do for sailing. In January, Joe was recognized by US Sailing as our nominee for 2001 Sportsman of the Year.

How about entering the Committee boat in the boat parade, decked out with nautical flags, and festive balloons? Someone who would like to take the lead in planning this, please email me.

I hate motors but love all the help we get from all of you folks. Thanks! May the remainder of our season be blessed by ideal winds and minimum breakdowns?

Gerry Brandt

Batten the Breeze Publication Schedule

Issue	(deadline/distribution)
Sep/Oct 2002	(Sep 2/Sep 6)
Nov/Dec 2002	(Oct 21/Oct 25)



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Visit us on the Web at —

<http://www.morainesailingclub.org>

E-mail: morainesailing@geocities.com

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Race Director	D. Vito	412-488-6835	Dan@fireborn.com
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Outreach Programs	Joe Kirk	412-571-9344	Krkmic@usaor.net

BTB Newsletter	R. Zavos	412-241-0659	rzavos@hotmail.com
Web Master	J. Hart	724-775-2196	jon_jlh@yahoo.com
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CSP	S. Marshall	412-921-4431	srm@telerama.lm.com
Youth & CSP	K. Otto	724-538-9649	Badgers@stargate.net
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Publicity	B. McDevitt	412-321-3233	bettemcd@telerama.com
Building	CarlSuppo	724-929-2818	suppo@dp.net

MSC Race Committees for 2002			
Date	Event	Race Committee	
		Day Steward	Helpers
7/13/02	Summer Series	Bob Zavos	Greg Madzelonka, John Jombock
7/20/02	Summer Series	Dan Gelman	Dave Bishop, Dean Marlin
7/27/02	Summer Series	Dan Vito	Chris Harlen, Lauren Lampe, Rob Martin
8/3/02	Summer Series	Dave Green	Joe Kirk, Paterson(s)
8/10/02	Summer Series	Charley Armitage	Ira and Bruce Ungar, John Jombock
8/17/02	Summer Series	Greg Madzelonka	Thad, Kathy, Dan Goldberg
8/24/02	Special Event	Joe Shields	tbd
8/25/02	Special Event	Joe Shields	Gerry Brandt
8/31/02	Summer Series	Keith Otto	Venture sailors, Tim Paterson
9/7/02	Summer Series	Dave Bishop	Murphy(s), Chris Neurwith, Gelman
9/14/02	Summer Series	Bernie Wiwel	Bob Zavos, Tom Hohler
9/21/02	Special Event	Gerry Brandt	Joe Kirk, John Onstott, Tim Nixon
9/22/02	Special Event	Gerry Brandt	Joe Kirk, John Onstott, Tim Nixon
9/28/02	Special Event	Jim Hastings	Bill Tingle, Jack Marshall, George Reed
Special Events Schedule			
Date	Special Event	Events	Description
8/24/02	Special Event	Open Class Races	Non-series race day. See Regatta at Lake Arthur article on page 4.
8/25/02	Special Event	Bridge to Bridge Race	Non-series race day. See Regatta at Lake Arthur article on page 4.
9/21&22/02	Special Event	Flying Scott Regatta, Saturday and Sunday	Sail for the Grail
9/28/02	Special Event	Open Regatta - Portsmouth Handicap	End o' Season Regatta



Jim Hastings and Jack Marshall are regular racers in Day Sailor 1461. The motor is a welcome addition because the boat is moored at Davis Hollow which is a very long paddle when there is no wind like we have had the past few weeks.

Racing Rules Clarified

In the last Issue of this publication we listed eight simplified rules from Don Becker, US Sailing Senior Judge. One of these rules stated:

- *The inside boat(s) at two boat lengths from the mark is entitled to room to round the mark.*

This rule summarizes the first part off Rule 18 of the *Racing Rules of Sailing for 2001-2004 by the International Sailing Federation (ISF)*. **However** in further elaboration at paragraph 18.1 ISF states the rule **does not apply** at a starting mark **or** between boats on **opposite tacks**, either on a beat to windward or when the proper course for one or both of them to round or pass the mark is to tack.

In other words, if you are "inside" and on port tack within 2 boat lengths of the windward mark then you **DO NOT GET ROOM.**

Youth Venturing Program

Venturing Ship is an opportunity for youth ages 14 through 21 to learn to sail and have fun sailing with their peers. The cost is \$20 per person for the season. The fee includes your Venturing application fee, a MSC student membership and use of the Moraine Trails Council's Sunfish Sailboats.

Remaining Schedule: (beginning at 10 am on Sundays)

July 21,

August 4, August 18

September 1, September 15, (Tentative Erie Outing)

For a membership application, more information or if interested in teaching/advising/helping contact Keith Otto at Badgers@stargate.net.

4th Annual Regatta at Lake Arthur Aug. 24 & 25

General activities include water sports, displays, contests, food, Grammy award-winning entertainment and much more! Free events include sailboat, canoe, kayak and rowing races, a "What Ever Floats Your Boat" race," boat parade, classic car cruise and motorcycle cruise, a historic antique oil pump display, hot air balloon launches, helicopter rides, skydivers, trail events, musical entertainment, children events and food vendors. For general information, call 724-283-2222 or check the Web site: www.butlercountychamber.com/



Moraine Sailing Club Activities include traditional sailboat races (using triangular course) on Saturday which are free and open to all. Skippers' meeting is at 9:45 am and first morning race is planned for 10:30 am. Afternoon races start around 1 pm. Trophies will be awarded to the winners at Watts Bay at the conclusion of the Regatta Boat Parade at 5 pm (number and categories will be determined by number and sailboat classes registered). All racers, club members and public are encouraged to participate in the Boat Parade scheduled to start at 3 pm. We will invite the public to join us in the parade (combining the sailboat ride activity with the parade event). Plan on bringing your own lunch or taking advantage of the concessions that will be operating in the park that weekend.

On Sunday (Aug. 25th) the famous Bridge to Bridge race will be held. All sailboats are invited to vie for the coveted Lake Arthur Regatta trophy. Also, if there is interest, shorter triangular races can be held at Watts Bay during the Bridge-to-Bridge race. To pre-register for either or both races call/email Joe Shields 412-367-3697 / jshields@post-gazette.com.

Boat Naming Contest

The winners in our boat naming contest are as follows:

Flying Scot 2757 donated by Bob Ammon: Backgammon

Coronado 15 donated by Walt Peterson: Awyntyrr

Congratulations to the nominators of the winning entries: Bruce Altomari for his clever play on Bob Ammon's name; and Chris Neuwirth for continuing the club's King Arthur theme.

Keelboat Certification Class

MSC Members can take a US Sailing Association Keelboat Certification course at the BMCS in Erie PA (see related article below). The course is scheduled for Saturday & Sunday July 27th and 28th. It starts at 8:30 am with an orientation followed by shore school and on the water learning. The cost is \$200 per person and overnight accommodations will be your own responsibility. You will need some prior sailing experience. For information on the course and certification visit: www.ussailing.org/commercial/basickeelboat.htm or call Keith Otto at 724-538-9649 or badgers@stargate.net.

Sail Erie at Bayfront Center for Marine Studies

Our second annual Sail Erie trip is scheduled for August 11th. Once again we will charter Keelboats at the Bayfront Center for Marine Studies (BCMS) located at Erie PA. We had a similar trip last year with about 50 attendees including both seasoned and new MSC members. Several members stayed around after sailing and had a casual dinner together at one of the local eateries.

We hope to keep the cost at \$25 per person for a half day of sailing. More information will be available as plans develop. Members participating in the keelboat certification class may want to use this as an opportunity to practice their skills. You can find more information on BCMS on the Web at www.goerie.com/bcms/index.html

If interested in participating contact Keith Otto at 724-538-9649 or badgers@stargate.net.

Family Boat Building

At least 22 families, scouts and other groups have received kits to build 16 foot Sailing Skiffs that will be on show at the South Shore of Lake Arthur on Saturday August 24th at 10 am. We will have a mass launching at 2 pm. Most of these folks have never built a boat or tried sailing prior to this project. The enthusiasm has been built up by the publicity provided by the Butler Chamber of Commerce, the cooperation of Lowes Butler Store, George Miller of CABBS construction, Joe Shield's How to Sail Seminar and help from members of the Western Pennsylvania Woodworkers Club. For further information contact the Chamber or John Bridges at 412 625 9348.

Join the Regatta Boat Parade on Aug. 24



The Second Annual Regatta Boat Parade promises to be even bigger and better than the first. All types of boats are invited---sail, pontoon, canoe, kayak, row boats---decorated or natural. The starting time has been moved up to 3:00 PM to better accommodate all activities. The parade will form at the Bear Run area at 3:00 PM. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will lead the boats past Lakeview Beach and Watts Bay to Nealy Point, Pleasant Valley and conclude at Crescent Bay. No registration is necessary. For additional information, call 724-772-0656.

When Should You Yell and Scream?

Dan Goldberg FS 4991

Once upon a time, Sid and his wife Sue were sailing in the last race of the year, tied for the fleet championship (which they had never won). Sid was a very good skipper but had one bad habit – he blamed Sue for every problem or mistake on the boat, including his. They had the lead on the last beat and needed one last tack to cover the second-place boat and win the championship. Although Sid made a bad tack (and proceeded to yell at Sue for messing up), they approached the finish line still in first place. Sue, however, decided she had enough of Sid’s abuse and jumped overboard 10 feet from the finish line and swam to the committee boat. Because the rules say you must finish with the same crew that you started with, Sid was scored “Did Not Finish” and lost the championship.

A bit later, an apparently humbled Sid was discussing the race with some other sailors. “I think I learned a good lesson today,” he said. The other sailors thought he had finally seen the error of his ways. “The next time I get married, I will choose someone who does not know how to swim!”

I don’t know if this story is true or not, but sometimes I hear yelling and screaming on boats around me. Usually I chuckle in amusement, because we rarely yell and scream on our boat. I actually think it is OK to yell and scream on certain occasions, which we will come to later.

There are two situations where communication is sometimes needed: within your own boat, and between boats. My experience is that if want something done on your boat, just ask the crew. If it’s really windy, you may have to ask loudly so they can hear you. But if you yell and scream, only bad things can happen. First, most people get flustered and defensive if they are yelled or screamed at. Second, they will be annoyed at you for yelling and screaming at them. Third, it shows them that you have lost control. If they mess up, get the problem fixed and discuss it later. Chances are they know they messed up and already feel bad enough. But it is also possible that you did not train them properly!

Sometime we need to talk to other boats. For example, approaching a downwind mark I often hear people yelling “Room”

or “No Room.” This can result in heated arguments and protests. When I approach a downwind mark, and I think there is no doubt that I am clear ahead, I will start talking (not yelling) early (well before the mark) to the boat behind to make sure they see it the same way. If there is any doubt about an overlap, I defuse the situation by asking the other boat if there is an overlap or not, whether I am ahead or behind. The advantages of ASKING (not YELLING) are (1) I always get an honest answer, and (2) there is no argument or protest.

Having said all that, I think there are two times when it is perfectly acceptable to yell and scream on a boat. It is OK to yell at inanimate objects, such as the spinnaker pole or the line that got tangled up or the cleat that gave you a bruise. It is also OK to yell at yourself if you mess up (like “Dan you dummy I can’t believe you hit that mark!). But I think it is never OK to yell at anyone else, either in your boat or in another boat. Am I perfectly in control at all times? Of course not! Sometimes in the heat of the race I have lost my cool a little bit. A few weeks ago, in a local club race we were on a windy spinnaker reach and the jib was violently luffing. I said something like “Please pull in the jib a little.” Nothing happened. So then I said, a little louder, “Please trim the jib.” Still nothing. Then I said “TRIM THE DARN JIB” except I didn’t use the word “darn.” That finally got the crew’s attention, but I immediately apologized for the harsh tone of voice. Luckily my crew forgave me because they knew I normally do not yell or scream. Also, when they do something really well (like a good spinnaker set or jibe), I try to let them know it!

From a big picture viewpoint, it boils down to sportsmanship and having fun. Most sailors I know are good sports and sail to have fun. Yelling and screaming shows bad sportsmanship, and being yelled and screamed at can’t be fun. So save it for inanimate objects and for yourself!

New Member List

Ken Andrews Pittsburgh
Carmen, Jean, Roman & Cassandra Bianco Renfrew, PA
Michael & Stephanie Bozic Pittsburgh
Leo & Maureen Collins South Park, PA
Drew & Marlene Crain Coraopolis, PA
Andrew H. Crain Sewickley, PA
Saqib Dara Pittsburgh
Chris Duncan Evans City, PA
Tom & Linda Forster Beaver, PA
Sherry, Jim & Summer Girson Oakmont, PA
Dan Fix & Gerri Goclan Pittsburgh
Donald & Jennifer Grandis Pittsburgh
George F. Gregory Pittsburgh
Andrea Kostura Pittsburgh
Robert, Christine & Meghan McCutcheon Pittsburgh

Matt Morgan Pittsburgh
Leslie Boehmer & Kirk Morrison Butler, PA
Maria Anthos & Robert Pektas Carnegie, PA
Dylan Plocki Pittsburgh
John Sentipal & Sue Remai Pitcairn, PA
Jack Rosenzweig Pittsburgh
Ben Rothschild Mt Lebanon, PA
Anne Siegel Pittsburgh
Jennifer Steel Pittsburgh
Kelly Klasnick & Chris Symons Butler, PA
Simone Sprenger & Hedderik Van Rijn Pittsburgh
Luke Visnic Allison Park, PA
Kenneth, Nancy, Steve & Kenneth Weidaw Gibsonia, PA

Detailed contact information will be published in the membership Directory in September 2002.



Dan Goldberg held a series of lunchtime seminars on Sailboat Racing. He was the right person to teach since he won both races.



Dave Green (on right) introduces new member Hedderick Van Rijn to sailboat racing on Lake Arthur.



Jonathan Hart sails to the finish line in FS3714 with assistance from his son, Sam. The name of the boat is Heart Beats.



Dean Marlin is very happy to reach the finish line in FS3637 on a very light wind day with crew members Steve and Cathy Wilson



Wolf Goethert, Bernie Wiwel, Carl Suppo, and Dan Vito (L to R) apply new carpet to Committee Boat deck. John Bridges, Gerry Brandt, and Sean Marshall also worked on the boat repair project.



The committee boat also got new seats, a new steering console, and other related mechanical parts. The motor was also repaired.

Moraine Sailing Club 2002 Membership Application

First and last name _____ **Home phone** (____) _____
Spouse's first and last name _____ **Business phone** (____) _____
Names of other family members _____ **Member since (yr.)** _____
Mailing address _____
City, state, and zip code _____
E-Mail address _____

Note: The above information will be published in the annual membership directory

	Membership <i>(please select one)</i>		Amount Due
q	Community Sailing Program	Social Membership plus priority access to club maintained Flying Scots, Sunfish and Optimists (including qualifications and instruction), all racing series races, trophies, and activities.	\$225
q	Racing	Social Membership plus registration of one boat to participation in all Flying Scot or Open Class racing series. Eligible for trophies and activities on club racing days. Fee-based access to club maintained Sunfish and Optimists on an as-available basis.	\$100
q	Social	Access to all social events for immediate family, able to participate in educational courses, club activities and trips, listing in the Membership Directory and a subscription to Batten the Breeze newsletter.	\$35
q	Student/Junior	Special individual membership for full-time students, 21 years or younger. Includes registration for one boat for all races and race activities.	\$15

Racing *(required)* Class: _____ Sail no.: _____ **Non-Racing** Class: _____ Sail no.: _____

Crewing - Interested in crewing for someone else? Please provide information for our published crew list:

Name: _____ **Experience:** _____
Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

I agree, on behalf of myself, my spouse, members of my household, my guests and other parties of interest, to release and save harmless both the Club and its officers and directors from any claim or claims arising from death or injury to myself, my spouse, members of my household, or my guests, and from loss or damage to boats, equipment or property under ownership or control of myself, my household, or my guests.

Applicant's Signature & Date _____

Spouse's Signature & Date _____

Please mail this completed and signed application, along with a check payable to "Moraine Sailing Club" for the total dues, to:

Moraine Sailing Club,
c/o Cynthia Phillips

174 Victory Lane

Leetsdale PA 15056 *Any questions? Don't hesitate to call me at (412) 741-5346 or email to widgeons@aol.com*

Please check areas of interest below

- Learn to sail
- Using club boats (Community Sailing)
- Opportunity to crew on a racing sailboat
- Opportunity to race
- Attend Social activities
- Interested in youth sailing camp (6th-8th grade)
- Interested in Explorer Post Sailing
- Interested in group cruising excursions

Please check areas where you can help out with club activities:

- Helping with events
- Helping new sailors get started
- Seminars
- Promotion of club and sailing - publicity
- Youth Sailing Camp
- Explorer Post Sailing
- Community sailing program
- Serving on Race committee (learning how)
- Teaching sailing
- Club boat maintenance and repair
- Outboard motor maintenance
- Serving on the MSC Board of Directors
- Newsletter - *Batten the Breeze*
- Website - *www.morainesailingclub.org*

Beyond the Water with Chris Czapleski and Tom Hohler

By Bette McDevitt

This series of articles focuses on MSC club members. The intent is to help us know one another better, and establish connections beyond the water.



Chris and Tom shown winning one of many MSC Awards

"I couldn't do nearly as well without her," said Tom Hohler. He was talking about the recent honor he received with his wife, Chris Czapleski, coming in third in the National Flying Scot Wife-Husband (emphasis Chris's) Regatta at Lake Delavin, Wisconsin, last month.

That sentiment appears to work for the partnership on land as well as water. Tom Hohler and Chris Czapleski met on a teacher's picket line at North Catholic, in 1977, and have been under way together ever since.

They came to sailing together, each with past experience. Chris had taken lessons while pursuing her Masters Degree in Indiana.

Tom had grown up on Lake Erie, and been sailing in a Thistle since he was twelve. "I spent the entire summer on the water," said Tom. "Tom told me he sailed, but he didn't tell me he raced," Chris added.

Tom came to Pittsburgh in 1966, to study philosophy at Duquesne's Graduate School, where he got his PhD and has been there ever since. He teaches philosophy at La Roche College and English at North Catholic High School. Chris teaches math at Shadyside Senior School in Fox Chapel.

Tom had just bought a Laser in 1977 when he met Chris and they began sailing at Moraine. "We knew Ed Casey, a long time member of the club, and he encouraged us to come up there. Since the Laser was a one-person boat, Chris crewed for many other people those first few years," said Tom. After they were married and had children, they bought a Flying Scot, and made sailing a family affair. "The kids went with us on the races, sang songs, and distracted us, like kids do," said Chris. The pair did manage to win the fleet championship at least twice with the children aboard. The passion for sailing has rubbed off on their daughter, Andrea, who often sails the Laser and a Sunfish. Their son, Paul, will go on the water, but has other interests.

The big draw at Moraine, said Chris, is the people in the club. "We don't have great wind there, or elegant club houses, but there is a wonderful assortment of people in that club!" They are both especially pleased to see so many young people who have come through the sailing programs within the last few years. "That's how I learned to sail," said Tom. "The club won't survive, without youth," added Chris.

Chris and Tom like to go to the Symphony and the local live theater. "When we go to the Friday night symphony, we see half a dozen people from the Sailing Club." Aside from that, Chris and Tom stay at home. "I'm a hopeless math geek, and I love to solve math problems," said Chris. "And I read contemporary philosophy," said Tom.

"We're a pretty good team," Chris admitted. That's on the water and beyond.

Moraine State Park Contact Numbers:

Park Office: 724-368-8811
 Marina Office: 724-368-9346
 Rita James Boat Rental Concessionaire 724-368-9000

Sailing Related Web Sites:

Erie Bayfront Center www.goerie.com/bcms/index.html
 Erie Yacht Club www.erieyachtclub.org
 Flying Scot Association www.fssa.com
 Flying Scot, Inc. www.flyingscot.com
 Sunfish Class www.sunfishclass.org
 US Sailing ussailing.org

Pennsylvania State Boating Related Web Sites

Moraine State Park www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/morain.htm
 PA DCNR Contacts www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/keycont.htm
 PA DCNR Press Releases www.dcnr.state.pa.us/polycomm/pressrel/
 PA Fish & Boat Commission: www.fish.state.pa.us

MSC Web Sites

Primary Web Site: www.morainesailingclub.org

MSC has several Yahoo Group Accounts. You can receive late breaking news via email, read archival messages on related topics and automatically send out your own emails to other members of the same group. You need a Yahoo account and then sign up for the specific MSC related groups.

General Member Information

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/morainesailingclub/>

Skipper/Crewing Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MSCcrew/join>

We also have Databases to schedule activities:

Skipper/Crewing Database: <http://shieldssoft.com/crew>

Learn To Sail Appointment Book: <http://shieldssoft.com/learn>

Batten The Breeze

Moraine Sailing Club Newsletter

Robert Zavos, Editor
1007 Savannah Avenue
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Member Input Welcome

All MSC members are invited to send articles, letters to the editor, pictures, and one free classified ad to this newsletter. If you have something to say or suggest regarding the club activities or sailing in general please send email to rzavos@hotmail.com or mail to the return address above.

Classified Ads

O'Day Daysailer I, original design, trailer, full boat mast-up cover, good condition, \$2,100, Bob Maloney, 412-366-1222

Laser, 14 feet, original owner, new Trailex aluminum trailer. \$1200 Call Dave at 724-846-9253. Boat kept at Watts Bay Public Launch Mooring Space #10.

Vagabond sailboat - main, jib, trailer, and cover. Contact Greg Madzelonka 412-963-8735

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